Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, RO

SUBJ: MEETING WITH CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR PUNGAN

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF 90 MINUTE MEETING AMBASSADOR HELD WITH CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR PUNGAN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 26.

A. CEAUSESCU VISIT TO U.S. - PUNGAN STRESSED NEED FOR MEETING BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS AT A "MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME." SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO IDENTIFY SEVERAL POSSIBLE PERIODS WHEN MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE. AMBASSADOR UNDERSCORED HEAVY PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE DURING FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE AND CONSEQUENT PROBABLY DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING A MEETING FOR SOMETIME TO COME.

B. CSCE AND LIPATTI VISIT - PUNGAN MADE STRONG PITCH
FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO BELGRADE MEETING.
AMBASSADOR REMINDED HIM WE HAD PROPOSED LIPATTI COME TO
WASHINGTON IN SECOND HALF OF APRIL. SAID DESPITE SEVERAL
QUERIES WE STILL HAD NO CONFIRMATION HE AVAILABLE. PUNGAN RESPONDED WHETHER IT WAS LIPATTI OR "SOMEONE ELSE"
WHO WENT TO WASHINGTON IT WAS GOR'S DESIRE TO ATTEMPT
TO HARMONIZE OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES PRIOR TO BELGRADE
MEETING. SAID THAT AT ALL COSTS WE MUST AVOID CONFRONTATION ATMOSPHERE AT BELGRADE AND MAKE CONCRETE PROGRESS.
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C. MEETING WITH CSCE COMMISSION - AMBASSADOR URGED THAT WHOEVER IS SELECTED FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATION HAVE AUTHORITY TO MEET WITH CSCE COMMISSION CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS. SAID WHATEVER REASONS WERE FOR GOR REFUSAL CODEL FENWICK VISIT LAST FALL, FACT REMAINS THAT CONGRESS PLAYING KEY ROLE IN FORMULATION OF USG FOLLOW-UP TO HELSINKI. REMINDED HIM THAT CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS OF COMMISSION WOULD BE MEMBERS

OF USG DELEGATION TO BEGRADE CONFERENCE. AFTER DIGRESSING TO STRESS NEED TO THINK OF ALL ASPECTS OF CSCE, NOT JUST IMMIGRATION, PUNGAN PROMISED TO PASS ALONG SUGGESTION.

D. ROMANIAN-CANADIAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS - PUNGAN SAID THAT TALKS WERE PROCEEDING WELL AND GOR HAD SET JUNE TARGET DATE FOR FINAL WRAP-UP OF CANDU REACTOR DEAL. AMBASSADOR REITERATED USG FORESAW NO DIFFUCULTY IN SALE OF COMPONENTS FOR CANDU DEAL, BUT SAID THERE REMAIN POTENTIAL POLICY PROBLEM RELATED TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

E. TEXTILE AGREEMENT - PUNGAN APPEARED WELL BRIEFED ON STATE OF PLAY OF TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS. SAID GOR EFFORT IN FORTHCOMING GENEVA ROUND WOULD BE TO TRY TO FIND FORMULA PERMITTING ROMANIA TO SELL MORE IN US WITHOUT DISRUPTING MARKET. AMBASSADOR URGED THAT GOR DEL TO GENEVA HAVE MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT ON "CLUSTER" PROPOSAL US DEL PRESENTED IN MEETINGS HERE LAST WEEK, WHICH WOULD OFFER GOR FAIR ACCESS.

F. EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION - AMBASSADOR MADE PITCH FOR MORE PROMPT, PRECISE RESPONSES FROM GOR TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DAMAGE AND NEEDS. IN CITING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING DEFINITIVE SET OF PRIORITIES, ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOGSCENTRAL COORDINATION POINT IN GOR. PUNGAN PROMISED TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.

G. MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU - AMBASSADOR INFORMED PUNGAN HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEEK MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU AS FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO CEAUSESCU'S LETTER. SAID HE WOULD BE SEEKING APPOINTMENT THROUGH USUAL CHANNELS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE PUNGAN ENSURING REQUEST GETS PROMPT ATTENTION. PUNGAN RESPONDED THIS WEEK WOULD BE VERY BUSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE FOR CEAUSESCU BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CC AND GNA SESSIONS, BUT SOMETIME THEREAFTER WAS SURE PRESIDENT WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE AMBASSADOR.

2. MEMCON FOLLOWS BY POUCH. BARNES

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